(c) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on the delegation?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) A FICCI delegation led by the Minister of Information and Broadcasting visited Japan and US in the second week of June 2001.

(b) The objective of the visit of the delegation to Japan and US was to show case internationally the achievements and potential of the Indian Entertainment industry and to explore fresh avenues for business development. Some immediate achievements of the visit are: (i) The possibility of more Indian films being released in Japan, with the NHK considering to increase the number of Indian films screened by them; (ii) Talks have been initiated by Indian companies with their Japanese counterparts for doing animation work in India; (Hi) An increased interest evinced by US companies and International Finance Corporation (IFC) in funding the media and broadcast sectors; (iv) An offer of assistance from Motion Picture Association of America (MPA) to help curb piracy of Indian films in the US. In addition, the members of the delegation got extensive opportunity to interact with their overseas counterparts.

(c) The approximate amount spent on the delegation by the Government on travel and daily allowance is Rs. 11 lakhs. This is subject to adjustment after settlement of the bills in this regard

Suspension of corrupt employees

† 838. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of employees of various organisations under her Ministry have been suspended on corruption charges during March, 1998 to June, 2001;

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of such employees alongwith the posts held by them at that time;

(c) the financial loss incurred by Government due to this; and

(d) the names of those employees, out of the aforesaid employees, who have since been reinstated?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Allowing print media access to capital from FIIs

839. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for allowing the print media access to capital from Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIS), Non Resident Indians (NRIs) and Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs);

(b) whether Government have already received a proposal from five editors; and

(c) if answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the positive, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The Government continues to be guided by the Cabinet decision of 1955, which prohibits publication of foreign owned newspapers/periodicals and Indian editions of foreign newspapers/periodicals dealing mainly with news and current affairs.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The five editors have represented for permitting the print media to access capital through Indian companies having minority shareholding, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs),